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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,984	07/22/2003	Takashi Okuyama	FS.20106US0A	8696
20995	7590	08/09/2004	EXAMINER	
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP 2040 MAIN STREET FOURTEENTH FLOOR IRVINE, CA 92614			VASUDEVA, AJAY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/624,984

Applicant(s)

OKUYAMA, TAKASHI

Examiner

Ajay Vasudeva

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/28/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. At least two copending documents in applicant's IDS (SN 36 and 37) have not been considered because appropriate application numbers have not been provided. Applicant may resubmit a new IDS with proper application numbers identifying such documents.

Specification

2. On page 13 (paragraph 67), the specification comprises incomplete information regarding the copending application, as follows:

"Such an engine control unit, a shift control unit, a remote controller and a network are disclosed in, for example, a co-pending U.S. application filed July **, 2003, titled WATERCRAFT WITH PROPULSION DEVICE AND ENGINE, which Attorney's docket number is FS.20105US0A; and a co-pending U.S. application filed July 2003, titled MULTIPLE NODE NETWORK AND COMMUNICATION METHOD WITHIN THE NETWORK which Attorney's docket number is FS.20107US0A, the entire contents of which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference."

Applicant must correct the specification by providing correct application numbers and respective filing dates.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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4. Claims 20-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uehara et al. (US 4,897,554).

Uehara et al. shows an engine starting system (figure 1) for multiple engines [29, 49], having a control device [14] that controls the starting devices, a common operating device [19] operable by an operator that provides the control device with at least an initiation signal to activate the starting devices, and a sensing device [91, 92] that separately senses an individual start completion state of each engine.

The common operating device comprises a switch mechanism and provides the control device with the initiation signal when the operator starts operating the switch mechanism, the control device deactivating each starting device if either the sensing device senses the individual start completion state of the respective engine or the preset time period elapses (figures 3-5). The sensing device senses the individual start completion state of each engine at least by monitoring the engine speed of each engine.

Regarding claim 26, the limitation "A system for concurrently starting a plurality of engines of a watercraft" (emphasis added) is considered an intended use limitation. As such, the above described device of Uehara et al. is capable of being used with a watercraft, and therefore meets all the limitations of the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-19 are allowed.

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Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not yet relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Latos et al., Shoda et al., JP (781), JP (601), JP (598) and GB (657) show multiple engine starting systems.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ajay Vasudeva whose telephone number is (703) 306-5992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 1:00 pm--5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joe Morano can be reached on (703) 308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


AV

Ajay Vasudeva
Examiner
Art Unit 3617


S. JOSEPH MORANO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600